2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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491 others following the old, but all opening up the country and making possible better security and greater trade.

• 794 184 [178] At Yeshbum I stayed the night with a family of influential Saiyids. They were very pleasant people indeed on the surface, though the opening up of the country must have been disagreeable to all but the broad-minded among them, and Saiyids like other religious leaders, are not renowned for their broadness of mind. Inviolate as Saiyids, descendants of the Prophet Muhammed, shrewd business men who lend money against property mortgages, educated among an ignorant people, and by tradition the mediators in family and tribal disputes, they were powerful people whose influence was bound to be affected adversely as contact with the outer world increased and education became effective. My host of the evening was Sheikh Ali Jifri, a charming elderly gentleman much afflicted with rheumatism, who was far-sighted enough to recognise the inevitable and to accept a change which he knew to be in the interests of the Aulaki people. Unfortunately, he died not long after my visit and his kindly influence was removed from his brother and his sons and nephews. They have always been difficult and resentful and have never really co-operated in the setting up of the Aulaki administration and have not used their influence in the right direction in the Council Chamber. [185] Political interests in the neighbourhood of Aden and in the Colony itself and the acquisition of agricultural land in the rich cotton areas, have been their pursuits. Nasser of Egypt is their idol and independence is their goal. What a pity learned students of religion cannot be content with the greatest of all occupations, the bringing of the word of God to the people of this tortured earth. The truth is that the false gods of wealth and power attract descendants of the Prophet in the same way as other people, for after all, they are but human.

184 The following day we drove up the Wadi Yeshbum to Said, the capital of the State beneath whose ancient towers I was to be greeted by the Amir, his brothers and the tribal leaders. [541] They were all ready for us where the Wadi broadens just below the town and they formed a procession, firing their rifles in the traditional manner, while their poets composed